

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawings include changes to FIGS. 9, 12, and 13. The sheets containing FIGS. 9, 12, and 13 replace the original sheets including FIGS. 9, 12, and 13.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 30 because the claimed “plurality of grooves” are not seen in the drawings. In order to overcome this rejection, a replacement figure is submitted herewith.

In FIG. 9, a plurality of grooves was shown and described at, e.g., Paragraphs 23 and 40, but not labeled. Accordingly, the replacement FIG. 9 labels the plurality of grooves of the fourth welded part 37 in which the second welding part 29 is insertable with reference number 41.

In FIG. 12, a groove was shown and described at, e.g., Para. 47, but not labeled. Accordingly, the replacement FIG. 12 labels the groove of the fourth welded part 37 with reference number 41.

In FIG. 13, a groove was shown and described at, e.g., Para. 48, but not labeled. Accordingly, the replacement FIG. 13 labels the groove of the fourth welded part 37 with reference number 41.

Approval of these changes to the Drawings is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 4, 26, and 30 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 38 has been added. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-14, 26, and 29-38 are pending and under consideration.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116:

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response because: it is believed that the amendment of claim 1 places this application into condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner; and the amendments to claims 3, 4, 26 and 30 should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new issues are being raised .

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On page 5, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-4 would be allowable if put into independent form. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 2. For this reason, *inter alia*, independent claim 1 is allowable. Therefore, claims 2-4, 5-10, and 12-14, which depend on amended independent claim 1 are allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10, 12-14, 30-32, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 is rejected because it is not understood how the second welding part can have continuous contact "in time" and "space" with the fourth welding part. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "...the second welding part has continuous contact with the fourth welding part."

Claim 30 is rejected because it is unclear how the recitation of “plurality of grooves” is read on the preferred embodiment. A plurality of grooves was described at, e.g., Paragraphs 23 and 40. Paragraph 23 states:

the upper sides of the grooves are each formed in a symmetrical triangle in cross-section, and an angle between extension lines from two symmetric faces of the symmetric triangle ranges from substantially 30 to 150 degrees.

Further, FIG. 9 shows the plurality of grooves 41 of the fourth welded part 37.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

On page 3, claims 1, 5-10, 12-14, 26, 29-33, and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “alleged” Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Meadows (U.S. Patent No. 5,181,936).

On pages 3-4, the Office Action states that the alleged APA does not suggest “a predetermined space occurs between the first and second welding parts in a vertical direction, and an amount of resin flows in the predetermined space welding the first and second welding parts together” as recited in claim 26.

On page 4, the Examiner asserts that Meadows makes up for the deficiencies of the alleged APA. Although Meadows discusses providing a heat seal between a thermoplastic container and cover (col. 2, lines 1-3), this seal does not relate a lid or cartridge body of an ink cartridge. Meadows shows the alleged second welding part 38 only contacting the floor 26. The alleged second welding part 38 of Meadows does not contact the alleged fourth welding part 18. In Fig. 3 after the floors 26, 26’ and the lips 14 have melted, the heated plate 32 with the alleged second welding part 38 is **removed** (col. 4, lines 14-15).

Thus, Meadows teaches away from flowing an amount of resin in the predetermined space to weld the first and second parts together.

Therefore, Meadows does not teach or suggest, “...an amount of resin flows in the predetermined space welding the first and second welding parts together” as recited in amended, independent claim 26.

NEW CLAIM

New claim 38 recites “...wherein the first welding part has a first section horizontally protruded in cross-section and a second section vertically protruded to the first section, and the

third welding part has a third section vertically protruded, a fourth section horizontally protruded, and a fifth section in a diagonal cross-sectional shape connecting the third section and the fourth section." Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that the new claim, which is different and not narrower than prior filed claims distinguishes over the prior art.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, the Board should enter this Amendment at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration.


If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 7

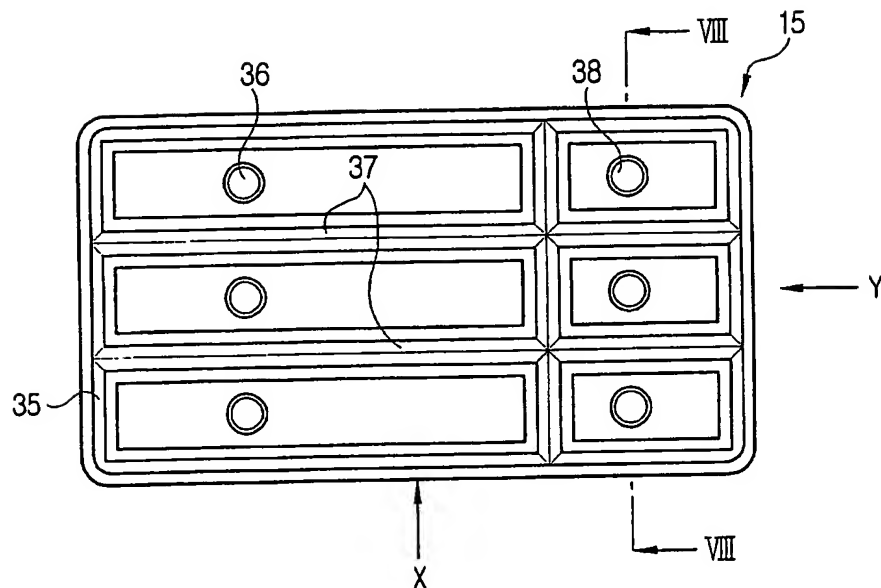


FIG. 8

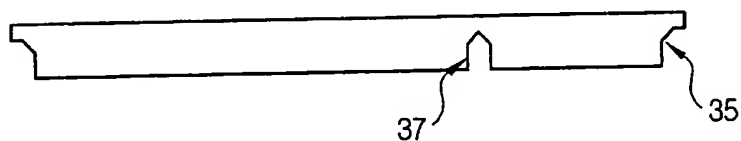


FIG. 9

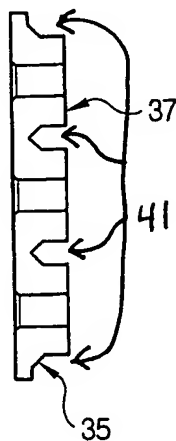


FIG.12

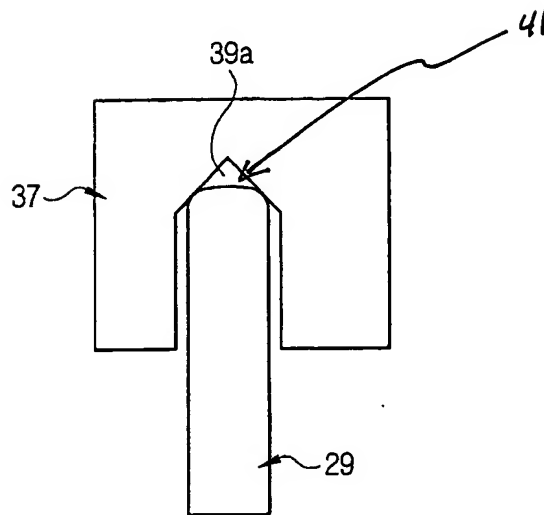


FIG.13

